

Appl. No. 10/010,244
Response dated Jan 9, 2008
Reply to Office action of October 9, 2007

Remarks:

Claims 1 to 12 and 26 to 35 remain in the application and are subject to examination. Claims 13 to 25 have been withdrawn from examination. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, and 33 have been amended. Claim 6 has been cancelled.

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

(Page 3) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants wish to thank Examiner Erez for indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 27-32 and indicating that claims 2-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection of independent claim 1 in items 3-4 of page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, the Applicants have elected to amend claims 1, 5, 7, and 9 solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG), 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000). Specifically the limitations of claim 6 have been added to claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore now allowable. Claims 2-5, 7-9, 12, and 26 depend from allowable claim 1. Since dependent claims contain all the limitations of the independent claims, claims 2-5, 7-9, 12, and 26 are allowable as well, which allowance is respectfully requested.

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(3-4) Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

As noted above, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 11, 12, 26, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Karapetian et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,434,796).

Claim 1 has been amended, as stated in the section above entitled "(Page3) Allowable Subject Matter," to add the limitations of claim 6. Claim 33 has also been amended to add the limitations of claim 6 and is therefore allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is now allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 34 and 35 are not currently rejected. Allowance of claims 34 and 35 is hereby respectfully requested as well.

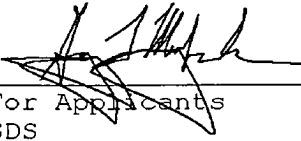
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 to 12 and 26 to 35 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

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If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition
for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants
SDS

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